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State Water Resources Control Board

REISSUED

CLEAN WATER ACT SECTION 401 WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION ORDER NO. WQ 2021-0021-DWQ AND NOTICE OF APPLICABILITY FOR ENROLLMENT UNDER STATE WATER BOARD GENERAL ORDER FOR THE CORPS' NATIONWIDE PERMITS (ORDER NO. [WQ] 2020-0039-EXEC)

Effective Date: June 14, 2021; **Reissued July 8, 2021**

Program Type: Fill/Excavation

Project Type: Overhead Utility

Project: TD 1663124 Mammoth Point Ranch Deteriorated Pole
Replacement Project
Regulatory Measure ID: 443369
WDID: SB21011IN

Applicant: Southern California Edison
Applicant Contact: Hazem Gabr
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State Water Board Contact Person:

For further assistance, please call State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) Staff listed above or (916) 341-5478 and ask to speak with the Wetlands Permitting and Planning Unit Supervisor.

E. JOAQUIN ESQUIVEL, CHAIR | EILEEN SOBECK, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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This document serves as a Notice of Applicability (NOA) for enrollment under the State Water Board General Order for the Nationwide Permits (Order No. [WQ] 2020-0039-EXEC; SWRCB ID SB20031GN; hereafter referred to as the General Order) at the request of Southern California Edison (Applicant). The General Order can be accessed at [the Clean Water Act Section 401 - Certification and Wetlands Program, General Orders webpage](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/cwa401/generalorders.html#yr_2020) (https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/cwa401/generalorders.html#yr_2020). On April 30, 2021, the State Water Board received a complete Notice of Intent (NOI) requesting authorization for the Applicant's TD 1663124 Mammoth Point Ranch Deteriorated Pole Replacement Project (Project). After reviewing the NOI, the State Water Board has determined that the Project meets General Order requirements for Nationwide Permit 57: Electric Utility Line and Telecommunications Activities **and issued an NOA on June 14, 2021. The Applicant submitted a certification request as defined by 40 CFR section 121.5 concurrently to the State Water Board and Corps on June 30, 2021. This NOA is reissued in response to the certification request.**

This order also serves as an individual certification of the Corps Nationwide Permit 57 under the authority of Clean Water Act Section 401.

I. Project Description

As described in the Project NOI and supplemental information (hereafter referred to as the Application), which is incorporated herein by reference, the purpose of the Project is to remove and replace of a deteriorated wood pole (Pole 88627S) with a new wood pole and includes placement of 24-inch sonotube around the pole with 2 cubic yards of pea-sized gravel fill material between the pole and the form.

II. Project Location

The Project is located on private land 0.27 miles west of US 395 and approximately 2 miles south of Bridgeport, in Bridgeport, Mono County, California. The Project coordinates are 38.226182°N, -119.232025°W.

III. Receiving Waters Information

The Project is located within the jurisdiction of the Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board, South Lake Tahoe Office (Lahontan Water Board). Receiving waters and groundwater potentially impacted by this Project are listed in Table 1. These waters are regulated in accordance with the applicable water quality control plan (Basin Plan) for the region and other plans and policies of the California Water Boards, which may be accessed online at [the State Water Boards' Plans and Policies webpage](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/plans_policies/) (http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/plans_policies/).

Table 1: Receiving Water Information

| Impact Site ID | Waterbody Name | Impacted Aquatic Resource Type | Water Board Hydrologic Units | Receiving Waters | Receiving Waters Beneficial Uses | 303(d) Listing Pollutants |
|----------------|-----------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------|--|---------------------------|
| Pole 88627S | Unnamed Wetland | Wetland System | 630.30 | East Walker River | MUN, AGR, GWR, NAV, REC1, REC2, COMM, COLD, WILD, RARE, SPWN | Fecal Coliform |

IV. Direct Impacts to Waters of the State

Total Project fill/excavation quantities for all impacts are summarized in Table 2.

Table 2: Total Project Fill/Excavation Quantity to Wetlands

| Temporary Impact ¹ | Permanent Impact - Physical Loss of Area | Permanent Impact - Degradation of Ecological Condition Only |
|-------------------------------|--|---|
| 0.01 acres 20 linear feet | <0.01 acres (2 square feet) 1 linear foot | 0 acres 0 cubic yards 0 linear feet |

V. Description of Indirect Impacts to Waters of the State

The State Water Board recognizes the potential for indirect impacts to waters of the state associated with the Project. Potential indirect adverse effects include but are not limited to: increased sediment loading to streams from riparian and/or upland areas used for access or staging areas, possibility of introducing invasive species into the Project areas, and changing timing of runoff delivery to streams in the Project area. The Project, as designed, will not have significant indirect impacts to waters of the state.

VI. Water Quality Control Plan Waste Discharge Prohibitions

The Basin Plan contains waste discharge prohibitions for certain hydrologic units (HUs) within its regional boundaries. The Project has the potential to discharge soil and

¹ Includes only temporary direct impacts to waters of the state and does not include upland areas of temporary disturbance which could result in a discharge to waters of the state. Temporary impacts, by definition, are restored to pre-project conditions and therefore do not include a physical loss of area or degradation of ecological condition.

construction waste to surface waters of the East Walker River HU, and thus violate the discharge prohibitions for the 630.30 HU, as specified in Basin Plan Chapter 4.1, Waste Discharge Prohibitions. The Lahontan Water Board may grant exemptions to the discharge prohibition for the East Walker River HU, provided that the Lahontan Water Board finds that the exemption criteria specified in Chapter 4.1 of the Basin Plan are satisfied.

As stated above, discharges from the Project are prohibited under this General Order unless the Applicant requests and obtains an exemption to the applicable prohibitions from the Lahontan Water Board for the Project. Coverage under this General Order is not valid unless accompanied by an exemption to discharge prohibitions in writing from the Lahontan Water Board.

To apply for an exemption from the Lahontan Water Board, please call (530) 542-5400 and ask to speak to the contact for the North Basin Regulatory Unit. You may also apply for an exemption through email at Lahontan@WaterBoards.ca.gov.

Information Needed for Required Exemption

Lahontan Water Board Resolution No. R6T-2015-0038 delegates to the Lahontan Water Board Executive Officer the discretionary authority to grant an exemption to Basin Plan waste discharge prohibitions when the Basin Plan exemption conditions are met. The Applicant must demonstrate to the Lahontan Water Board Executive Officer that the Project meets the conditions in the Basin Plan for granting an exemption. If an exemption is proposed to be granted, a public notice will be posted on the Lahontan Water Board website and distributed through an interested-persons mailing list, allowing at least 10 days for comments to be submitted. At the conclusion of the public comment period, the Lahontan Water Board Executive Officer will make a written determination whether to grant an exemption to the above-cited waste discharge prohibition(s).

VII. Conditions

A. Scope of Authorization

- i. The Project may proceed only as described in the Application submitted to the State Water Board by the Applicant and in accordance with the conditions in State Water Board General Order No. [WQ] 2020-0039-EXEC and this NOA. This Certification and coverage under the General Order is no longer valid if the Project (as described) is modified. A copy of the General Order and its attachments can be found on the State Water Resources Control Board's [General Order Website](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/cwa401/generalorders.html#yr_2020) (https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/cwa401/generalorders.html#yr_2020).

Compliance with 40 CFR § 121.7(d)(2) - This condition is necessary to assure that any discharge under this Order will comply with water quality requirements as described in the General Order. Water Code section 13264 prohibits any discharge that is not specifically authorized in an order. The conditions set forth in State Water Board Water Quality General Order No. [WQ] 2020-0039-EXEC are further justified in Attachment C of that General Order.

B. Standard Conditions (These conditions are also set forth in State Water Board General Order No. [WQ] 2020-0039-EXEC, in Section VI.A.1-A.3.)

- i. **Every certification action is subject to modification or revocation upon administrative or judicial review, including review and amendment pursuant to Section 13330 of the Water Code and Article 6 (commencing with Section 3867) of this Chapter.**
- ii. **Certification is not intended and shall not be construed to apply to any activity involving a hydroelectric facility and requiring a FERC license or an amendment to a FERC license unless the pertinent certification application was filed pursuant to Subsection 3855(b) of this Chapter and that application specifically identified that a FERC license or amendment to a FERC license for a hydroelectric facility was being sought.**
- iii. **Certification is conditioned upon total payment of any fee required under this Chapter and owed by the applicant.**

Compliance with 40 CFR § 121.7(d)(2) – Each standard condition in Section VI.B is necessary to assure that any discharge authorized under the general license or permit will comply with water quality requirements. Water quality requirements include state regulatory requirements for point source discharges into waters of the United States. California Code of Regulations, title 23, Chapter 28 sets forth regulations pertaining to water quality certifications for point source discharges to waters of the United States. These conditions were included to comply with section 3860, which sets forth conditions that must be included in all water quality certifications.

C. Mitigation for Temporary and Permanent Impacts

- i. All temporarily affected areas will be restored to pre-construction contours and conditions upon completion of construction activities in compliance with the General Order and according to the restoration plan submitted by the Applicant in the Application.
- ii. The Applicant has provided a letter of credit in favor of the State Water Board to provide security against a default in providing the required compensatory mitigation. By January 15, 2022, the Applicant shall submit a mitigation plan to the State Water Board in accordance with section VI.F.2.e.ii of the General

Order. By June 1, 2022, the applicant shall submit proof of credit purchase in accordance with section VI.F.2.e.ii.3 of the General Order.

- iii. Total required Project compensatory mitigation information for permanent physical loss of area shall be greater than or equal to the Project's permanent impact totals listed in Table 2, above, in the form of mitigation bank or in-lieu fee credit purchases in quantities consistent with the mitigation ratios provided in section VI.F.2.e.ii.2 of the General Order.

Compliance with 40 CFR § 121.7(d)(2) – Mitigation is required to ensure compliance with Executive Order W-59-93 that requires no net loss of the structure or function of California's wetland resources.

VIII. California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)

The State Water Board has determined that the Project is exempt from review under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to California Code of Regulations, title 14, Existing Facilities 15301. Additionally, the State Water Board finds that no exceptions to the exemptions apply to the activities approved by this NOA.

IX. Certification Fees

A fee payment of \$2066 was received by the State Water Board on May 3, 2021. The fee amount was determined as required by California Code of Regulations, title 23, sections 3833(b)(3) and 2200(a)(3) and was calculated as category E - Low Impact Discharges (fee code 87).

X. Public Notice

The State Water Board provided public notice of the Application pursuant to California Code of Regulations, title 23, section 3858 from May 19, 2021 to June 9, 2021. The State Water Board did not receive any comments during the comment period.

XI. Water Quality Certification

I hereby issue this Notice of Applicability for the TD 1663124 Mammoth Point Ranch Deteriorated Pole Replacement, certifying that as long as all of the conditions listed in the General Order are met, any discharge from the referenced Project will comply with the applicable provisions of Clean Water Act sections 301 (Effluent Limitations), 302 (Water Quality Related Effluent Limitations), 303 (Water Quality Standards and Implementation Plans), 306 (National Standards of Performance), and 307 (Toxic and Pretreatment Effluent Standards).

As a water quality certification and enrollment under State Water Board General Order No. [WQ] 2020-0039-EXEC, this Certification and Notice of Applicability serve as waste discharge requirements pursuant to the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act (Wat. Code, § 13000 et seq.). State Water Board Order No. [WQ] 2020-0039-EXEC serves

as waste discharge requirements in accordance with State Water Board Water Quality General Order No. 2003-0017-DWQ. **The State Water Board filed a Notice of Exemption (NOE) with the State Clearinghouse on June 15, 2021.**

Except insofar as may be modified by any preceding conditions, all NOA actions are contingent on: (a) the discharge being limited and all proposed mitigation being completed in strict compliance with the conditions of the General Order and the attachments to the General Order; and, (b) compliance with all applicable requirements of Statewide Water Quality Control Plans and Policies, and the Regional Water Boards' Water Quality Control Plans and Policies.

Karen Mogus  Digitally signed by Karen Mogus
Date: 2021.07.08 16:14:39 -07'00'

Date

Karen Mogus, Deputy Director
Division of Water Quality